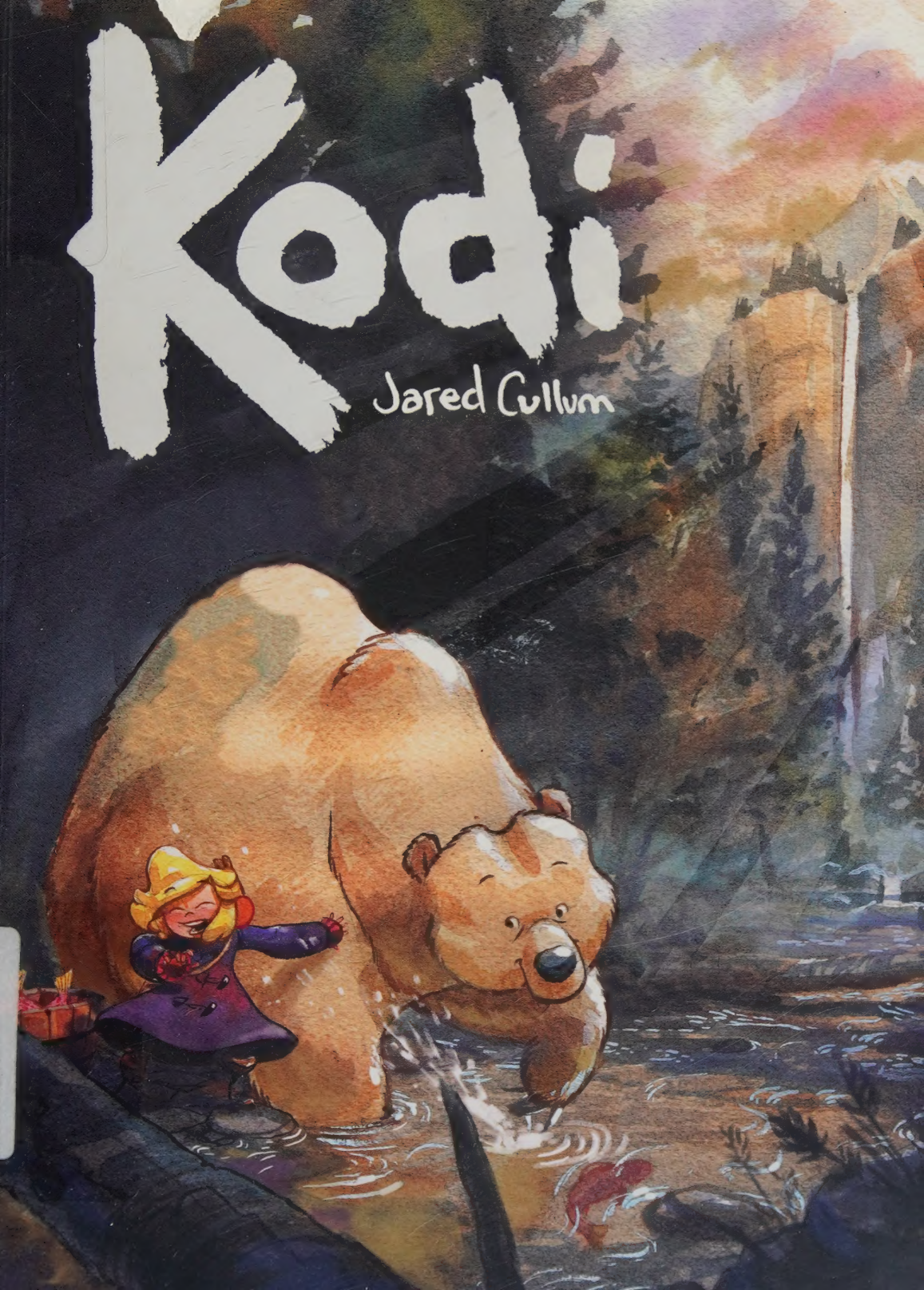
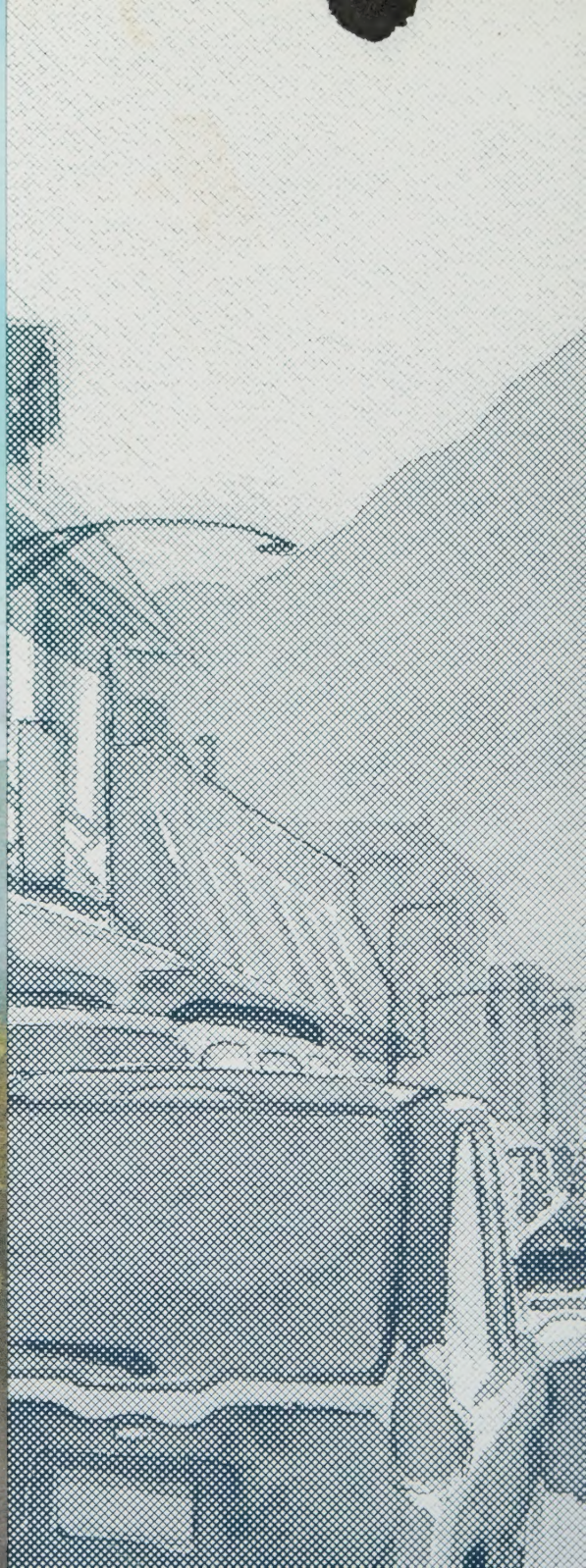

Kodi
Jared Cullum

Katya and her Meema are spending another summer at their cottage in Alaska, when a chance accident leaves Katya face-to-face with the biggest creature she's ever seen... an enormous kodiak bear with a gentle heart and a knack for fishing.

But when Katya must suddenly return home to Seattle, the two are torn apart, leaving Kodi to do whatever it takes to reunite with his fragile human friend.

It's a wild journey packed with breathtaking views, brave new companions, and adventure around every turn.



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Designed by Gilberto Lazcano.

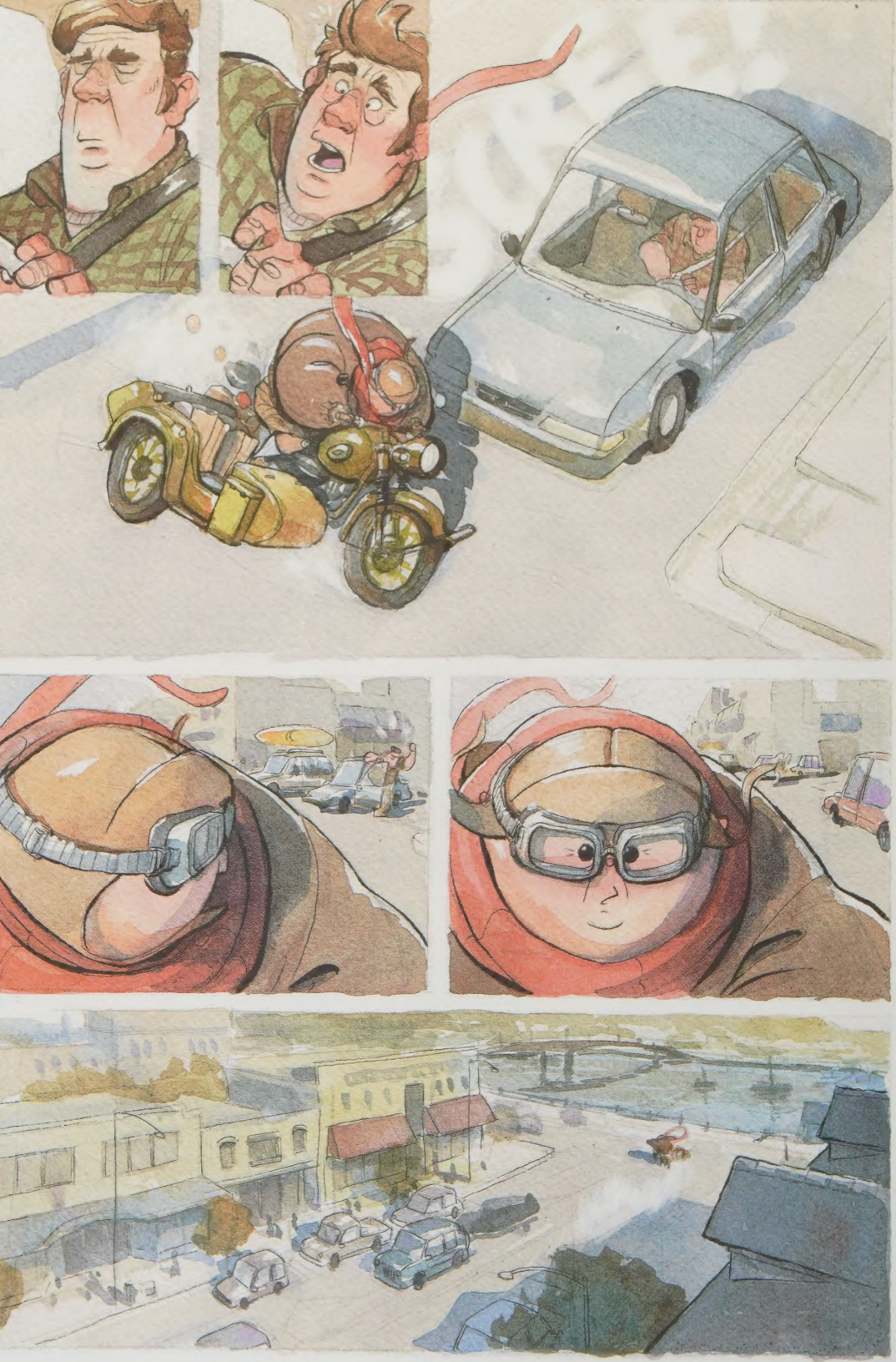
Visit our online catalog at topshelfcomix.com

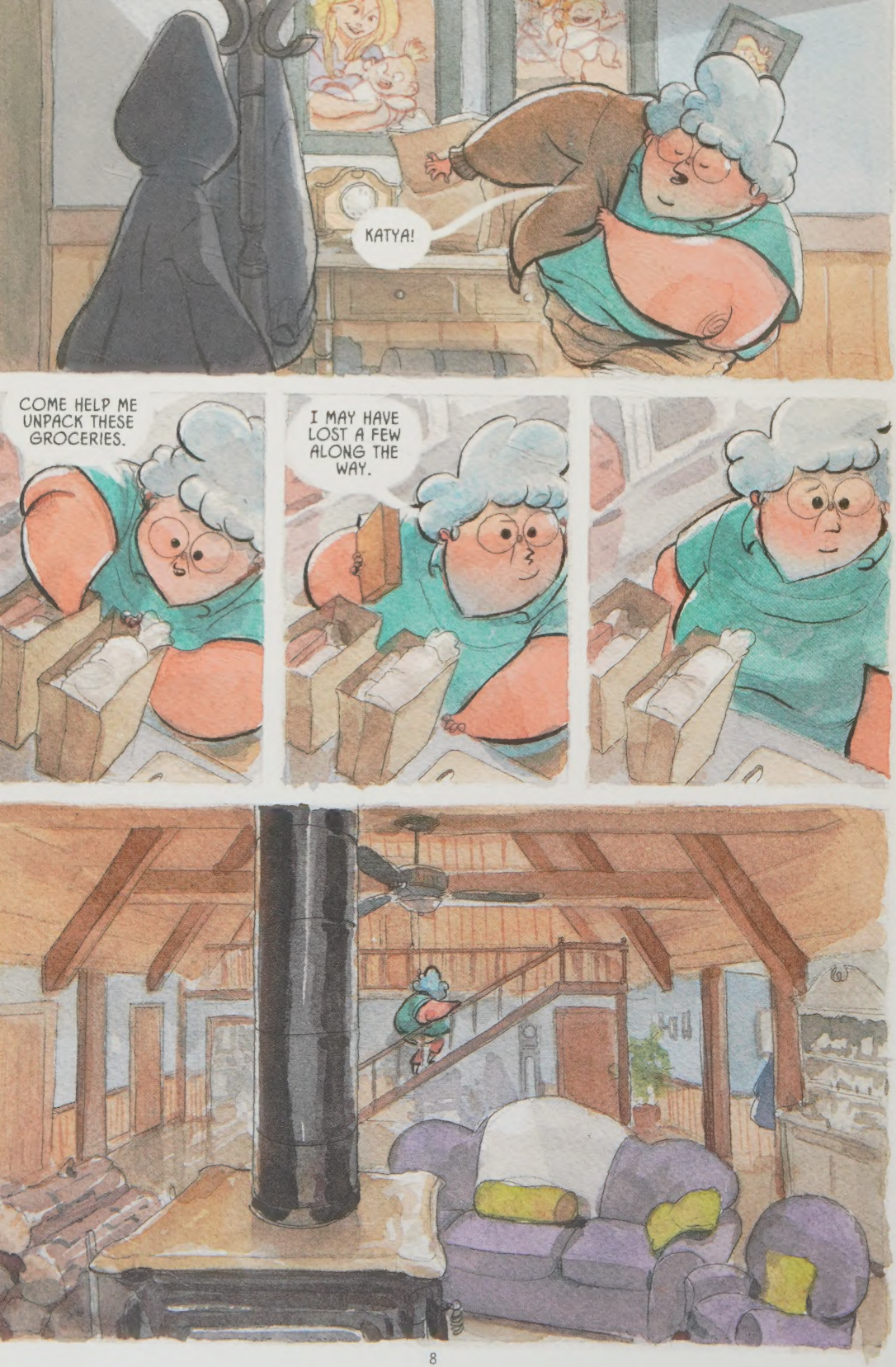
Kodi

Jared Cullum

Top Shelf Productions

This book is dedicated to my wife Johanna,
who fills my life with inspiration and joy,
my son Oliver, who fills my heart with hope,
and my daughter Genevieve, who raises
the sun each day with her smile.




KATYA!
COME HELP ME UNPACK THESE GROCERIES.
I MAY HAVE LOST A FEW ALONG THE WAY.

I WAS CALLING FOR YOU.
YOU CAN'T WASTE ANOTHER SUMMER WITH YOUR NOSE IN THESE PICTURE BOOKS.
THEY'RE NOT PICTURE BOOKS.
THEY'RE COMICS.

YOU CAN'T HIDE AWAY FOREVER, KATYA.
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY AND MAKE FRIENDS.
I DON'T NEED FRIENDS.
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE AROUND KIDS YOUR AGE?
I DON'T LIKE KIDS MY AGE. THEY'RE MEAN.
THEY CALL ME A MONSTER AND FLICK MY EARS.
÷SIGH÷ I AM A MONSTER.

YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER.
YOUR EARS ARE BEAUTIFUL... AND THERE ARE NO MONSTERS.
YOU CAN'T LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THESE STORIES. IT'S GORGEOUS OUTSIDE.
GO DOWN AND GET A SNACK AT THE CORNER MARKET.
NO THANKS.
THAT WASN'T A SUGGESTION.
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME.
SLAM!

air

Ow!

I NEVER SEE YOU OUT AND ABOUT. HOW'S YOUR GRANDMA?

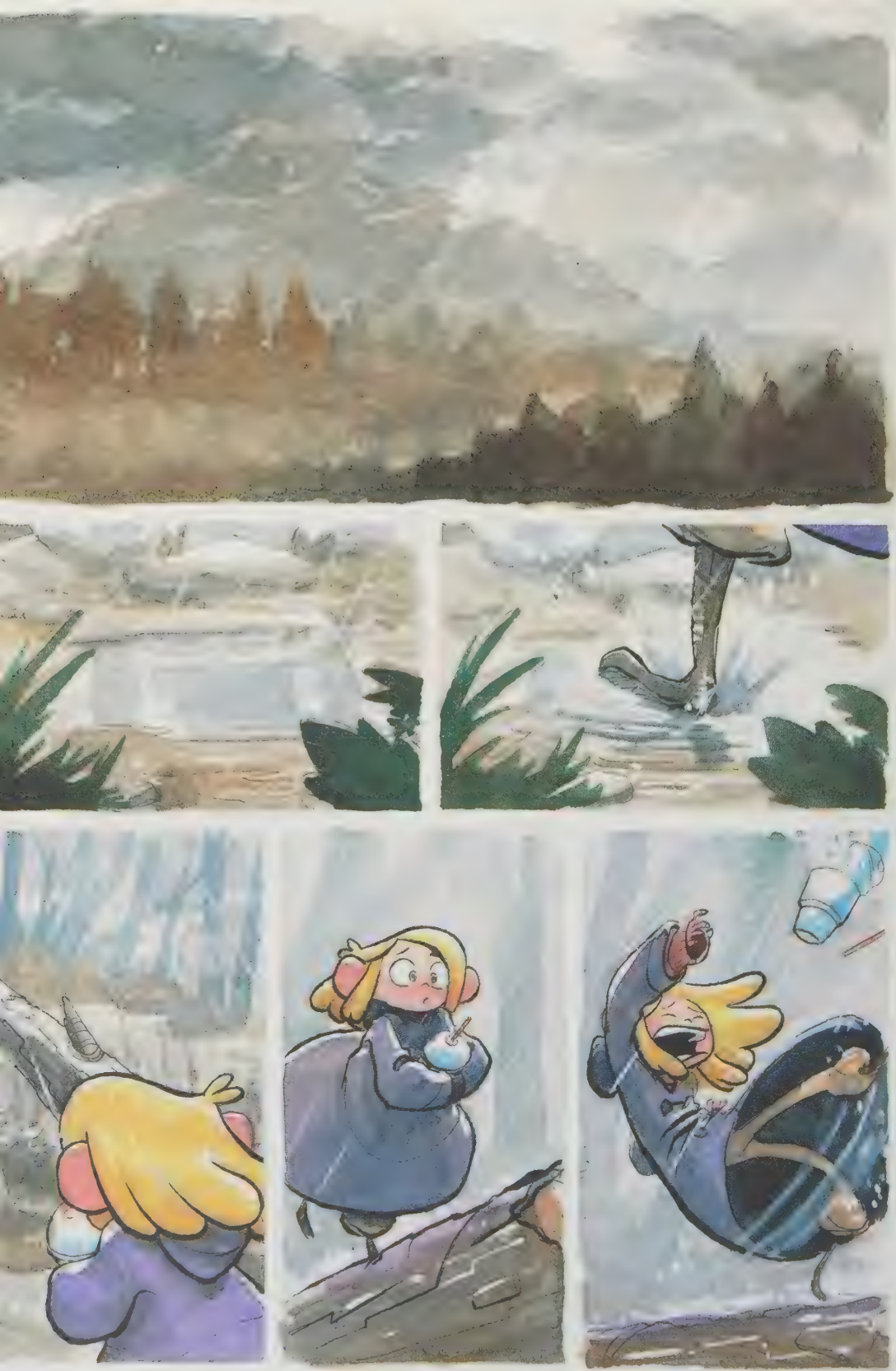
77 CENTS IS YOUR CHANGE.

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE READING?

THAT A COMIC BOOK?
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I USED TO WALK A NEIGHBORHOOD KID HOME FROM SCHOOL EACH DAY FOR 50 CENTS.
I'D RUN STRAIGHT TO THE SPINNER RACK.
WHAT COMICS WOULD YOU GET?
OH, THE REAL HEAVY STUFF.
RICHIE RICH, DONALD DU-
THAT'S NOT HEAVY STUFF.

WELL... I BETTER SLIP ON.
I'M GLAD ONE OF US THINKS IT'S FUNNY.
QUITE A CLOUD BLOWING IN.

BETTER GET HOME QUICK.



CRACK!

ARE YOU STUCK?

IT'S USELESS.
CRACK!
IT'S OKAY!

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HERE...
ARE YOU AFRAID OF THUNDER?

I USED TO BE SCARED OF THUNDER, TOO.
MY MOM WOULD SING ME TO SLEEP.
I CAN TRY...
IF YOU'RE LOST AND FEELING SCARED,
NO NEED TO FRET, I'LL BE THERE...
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU SO, YOU SEE,
I HAVE YOU AND YOU HAVE-
-ME.
YOU'RE NEVER ALONE.

I'LL GO GET HELP.

IT'S NOT LIKE HER.
THANKS, ANYWAY.
MEEMA!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
I NEED YOUR HELP. THERE'S AN ANIMAL AND HE'S HURT.

WE HAVE TO HURRY!
I-I'LL GET MY COAT.
WHAT DO BEARS EAT?
WELL, I GUESS THEY EAT–
BEARS?!
HIS LEG IS STUCK UNDER A BRANCH.
WE CAN'T HELP A BEAR.
WHY NOT?!
BECAUSE IT'S A MONSTER!

YOU SAID THERE ARE NO MONSTERS.
PLEASE.
SIGH
WE'LL NEED SOME ROPE.

DOWN THERE!
PULL!
COME ON.
COME ON. YOU CAN DO IT.

YES!

CAN YOU WALK ON IT?
HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT ON THAT LEG.
IF WE CAN GET HIM TO THE HOUSE, I CAN BANDAGE HIM UP.

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER...
STEP BACK, KATYA. THIS MIGHT STING A BIT.

ROAR!
CAN YOU PUT ON SOME TEA?
YOU'RE NOT FEEDING HIM, ARE YOU?
IF YOU FEED HIM, HE'LL NEVER LEAVE.
UH...

WE'LL NEED TO FIND A PLACE FOR HIM TO GO.
!

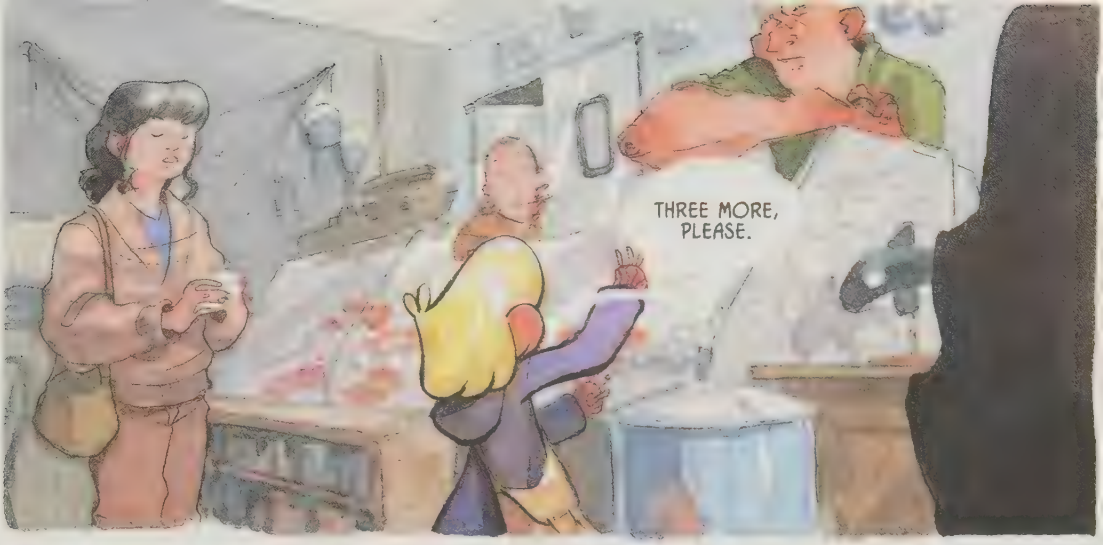
I'LL CALL YOU KODI.
GOOD NIGHT, KODI-BEAR.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU.
HUNGRY?
EAT UP!
I CAN ALWAYS RUN–
BACK...
FOR...

STILL HUNGRY?

I KNEW THE BABY-SITTER DID IT.

LOOK!
IT'S YOU AND ME.
THAT'S WHERE I GREW UP.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.


THREE MORE, PLEASE.

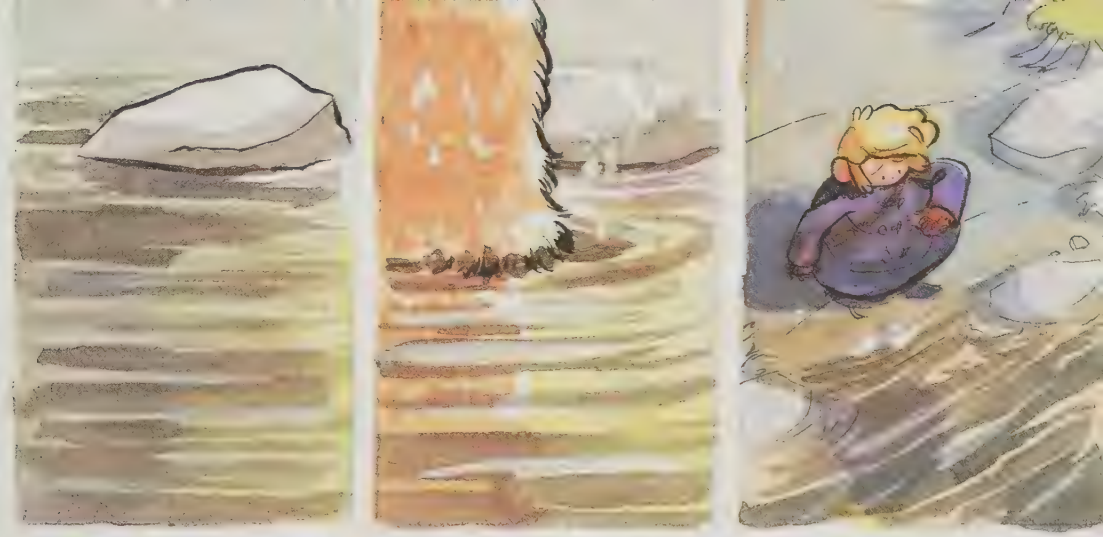
BACK AGAIN? THAT'S ENOUGH TO FEED A BEAR.

I GUESS.

KODI?

KODI!

YOU CAN WALK!



I CAN'T.

I CAN'T GO IN THERE.
I CAN'T SWIM.

I'M SCARED
OF WATER.

OOF!

YOU'RE A GREAT FISHERMAN.
I HAVE AN IDEA...

POW!
YES!
X

I'M GOING TO THE STORE.
WE'LL HAVE TO GET MORE-
!

RING!
HELLO?
WE'RE FINE. SHE'S DOING BETTER THIS SUMMER... IS SHE MAKING FRIENDS?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.

WHAT?
OH DEAR, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
WE CAN LEAVE TOMORROW.
OF COURSE, I'LL TELL HER.
SHE WILL UNDERSTAND.

MEEMA, DO WE HAVE ANY–
WHAT'S GOING ON?
COME SIT DOWN.

MY GREAT-AUNT IS IN THE HOSPITAL.
I HAVE TO GO HOME EARLY.
WE'RE LEAVING TODAY.
I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS.

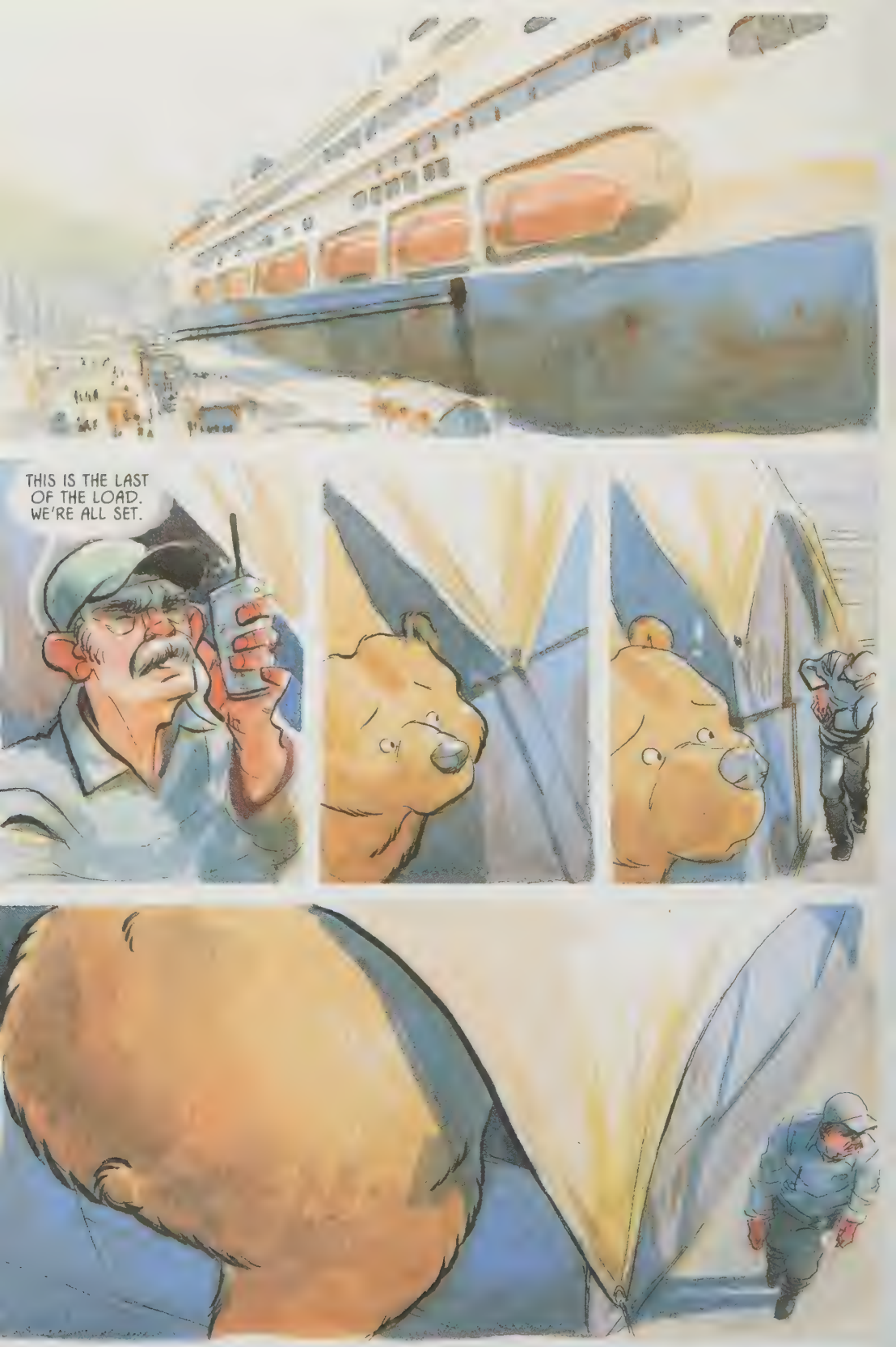
IT'S A PICTURE OF US.
THIS IS WHERE I'LL BE.
I'LL COME BACK NEXT SUMMER.
DON'T FORGET ME.
I LOVE YOU, KODI-BEAR.

THERE'S THAT BEAR AGAIN.
AGAIN?

HE PASSES THROUGH EVERY DAY.
RAIN OR SHINE.
TO WATCH THE TOURISTS COME AND GO.

THIS IS WHERE I'LL BE.

WHO BUYS THESE THINGS?
IT'S ALMOST NOON. WE HAD BETTER GET BACK TO THE SHIP.


THIS IS THE LAST OF THE LOAD. WE'RE ALL SET.

THE SALMON HERE IS DELICIOUS, CHARLES.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THEY HA-
WHAT?

AAH

SLAM!

IS THIS YOUR BAG?
YOU MUST BE THIS LITTLE GIRL.
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
DID YOU RUN AWAY? WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?

YOU HUNGRY?
HERE...
HOPE YOU LIKE TURKEY.
SNIFF SNIFF
SLAM!
WANT SOME COMPANY?
I'M JOSHUA.

I'M A SAILOR.
EVER SINCE I WAS A BOY, I DREAMED OF A LIFE AT SEA.
I USED TO WATCH THE SHIPS WHILE MY MOTHER WORKED.

EVENTUALLY I STARTED MY OWN FISHING BUSINESS.
IT WAS WONDERFUL...
...UNTIL ONE DAY.

I WAS CAUGHT IN A STORM AND WAS TOO FAR OUT TO GET BACK IN TIME.

THAT STORM TOOK MORE
THAN THE BOAT THAT DAY

I HAD TO START ALL OVER, BUT I'M STAYING POSITIVE.
TRYING TO REBUILD.
WHY DON'T WE FIND YOUR PAR-
SLAM
WOW!

YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG FOR A LITTLE GIRL.

ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND THIS LITTLE GIRL, KATYA?
SHE MUST BE YOUR FRIEND.
WELL, I CAN'T LEAVE YOU IN THIS DUMPSTER ALL ALONE.
YOU CAN COME WITH ME. IT'S NO HOTEL... BUT IT'S HOME.

THAT'S ANGELO. HE'S HARMLESS.
WELCOME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOTHING.
HEY!
GIVE IT BACK!
IS THAT A DOG?

IT'S A BEAR. GIVE IT BACK.
A BEAR?!
HE'S MY FRIEND.
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH A BEAR?

WHAT DO YOU AND YOUR *BEAR*-FRIEND DO TOGETHER?
KATYA'S MAKING UP STORIES!
ENOUGH.

I DIDN'T MAKE IT UP.
HE'S REAL.
I THINK YOU MAY BE READING TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS.

BANG! BANG! BAN
UH-OH.
THUNK!
THUNK!
OW!
YOU HAVE TO HIDE.
BANG! BANG!
STAY UNDER THIS AND DON'T MOVE.
THUNK!

MR. FABIAN!
WHAT BRINGS YOU BY ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL-
SPARE ME.

I'VE BEEN VERY LENIENT WITH THE RENT, BUT YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
THE *LOUVELLE II* IS ALL REPAIRED. I JUST NEED A COUPLE GOOD TRIPS TO MAKE THE PAYMENT.
YOU HAVE ***ONE*** WEEK.

IF YOU DON'T-
CLASH!
CLANG!
DID YOU BRING A DOG IN HERE? I SAID NO ANIMALS.
WHAT?
IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A RACCOON.
CRASH!
BANG
CLANG!
CLASH
BANG
CRASH!
SMASH!
CRASH

A REALLY BIG RACCOON.
I'M GONNA HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
?
WHAT'S UNDER THERE?
WAIT!

I CAN EXPLAIN.
BE CAREFUL...

IT'S A-

PILE... OF PARTS?

FOR THE SHIP. PARTS FOR THE SHIP.
ONE WEEK, JOSHUA.
ONE WEEK.
AND IF I FIND OUT YOU'RE HIDING ANIMALS DOWN HERE...

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT FILTHY CAT HANGS AROUND THESE DOCKS.
YES SIR, AND IT WAS SO NICE TO SEE YOU.
ALWAYS A TREAT.
IT'S...
IT'S...
HOPELESS
SNEEZ

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
THE SHIP IS READY, BUT I CAN'T PULL NETS WITH MY SHOULDER AND LEG.
I CAN'T SWIM ANYMORE.

I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
I NEED SOMEONE STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE NETS.
WHO KNOWS THEIR WAY AROUND FISH.

KODI.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER.
YOU HELP ME GET MY BUSINESS BACK...
...AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND KATYA!

THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.
GAGA
IT WORKS!

BOO!
FIGURES SHE'D DIE WHEN WE NEED HER MOST.
WE CAN FIX IT. WE'LL BE BACK ON OUR FEET TOMORROW.

PLEASE DON'T BE SAD. LOOK-
I GOT YOUR FAVORITE.
THANKS.

EXCUSE ME.
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS GIRL?

NO GOOD NEWS TODAY, BUDDY.
BUT I GOT YOU SOMETHING.
I HAD TO HAVE IT LET OUT SO IT WOULD FIT.

YOU LOOK GREAT!

THAT'S THAT BEAR I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.

I KNEW YOU'D DO IT.
THANKS.
SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

WE DID IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WE CUT IT CLOSE BUT WE SURE–

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU MISS KATYA?
I'M SORRY. WE'LL FIND HER.

WE'LL PICK BACK UP FROM HERE AFTER LUNCH.

TEACHERS
ONLY

LET'S CHECK BACK IN WITH MANDY-
OUT AT THE DOCKS.

THREE
TWO
ONE
CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDERWAY AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD PUSHES CLOSER TO THE WATERFRONT.
HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE LOCAL WILDLIFE?
WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS LITTLE FAMILY.
WHERE WILL THEY GO?

KODI!
I HAVE AN IDEA.

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THESE DU-
SMACK!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IS THAT A BEAR?
OVER HERE!
ARE YOU GETTING THIS?

IS THAT A BEAR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?
DID YOU NOT SEE THE SIGN?
OVER HERE! ARE YOU GETTING THIS?
GET BACK TO CLASS.
TEACHERS ONLY
SLAM!

I'M JOSHUA AND THIS IS MY FIRST MATE, KODI. WE NEED YOUR HELP!
THIS IS KODI'S FRIEND. WE'RE TRYING TO FIND HER.
IF YOU SEE THIS, WE'LL BE WAITING AT PIER 7...

JUST PAST BALLARD BRIDGE.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR BEAR-FRIEND.
Z

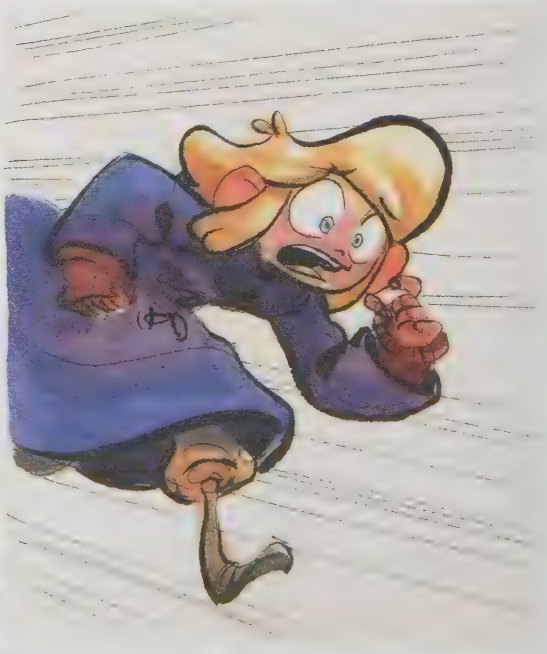
I'M SO SORRY, KODI. I REALLY THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO WORK.

WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.
WE HAVE TO STAY POSITIVE.
I MEAN... TOMORROW IS A BRAND NEW-

KODI?

DINNER'S READY. CAN YOU POUR US SOME TEA?
CHANNEL 6 NEWS.
LET'S LOOK BACK AT OUR MOST

...AND A BEAR.
THIS IS KODI'S FRIEND. WE'RE TRYING TO FIND HER.

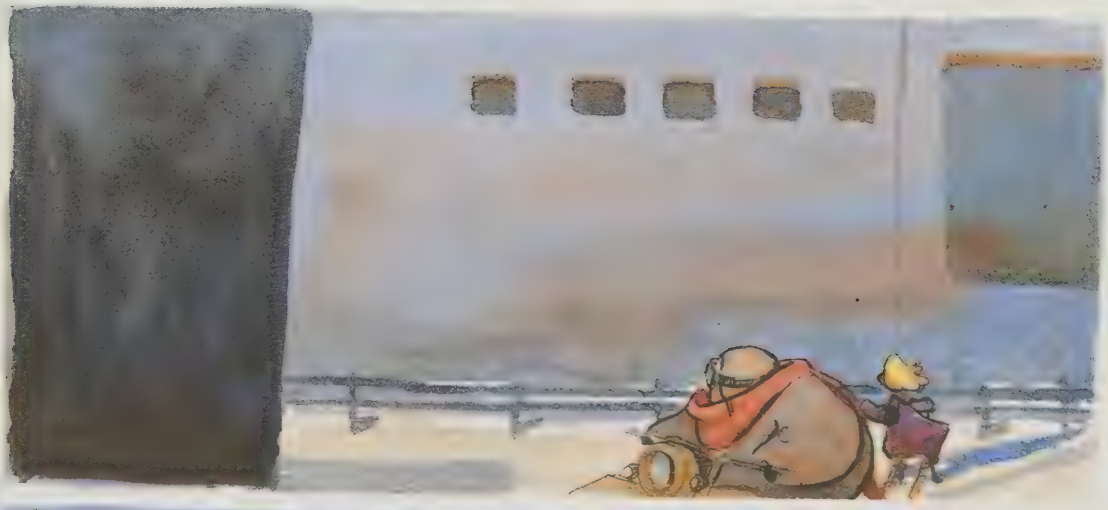


WHERE'S KODI?
I CAN'T FIND HIM.
I FAILED HIM.
HE WENT TO FIND HIS FRIEND–
KATYA?!
YOU'RE THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE!
HUFF
HUFF

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WORKED!
WHERE DID HE GO?
HE LEFT AFTER WE THOUGHT YOU MISSED OUR MESSAGE.
I SEARCHED THE PIER, BUT... NO KODI.
WE HAVE TO FIND HIM!

LET'S SPLIT UP.
WE'LL HEAD BACK TOWARD THE CITY.
I'LL TAKE THE WATERFRONT.

OH NO.
WE HAVE TO GET ON THAT SHIP!
HOOOOOOOONK!



KATYA!

JUMP! WE CAN STILL CATCH THEM.
I CAN'T!
I'M AFRAID OF WATER!

LET'S GO!
COME ON.
COME ON.

STOP!
IS THAT A LITTLE GIRL?

I'M GIVING IT ALL WE'VE GOT.
DOWN HERE!
KABOOM!
NO!
NOT NOW...
KATYA?

SPLASH!

OVER HERE!

SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE.
YOU'RE HERE.
I LOVE YOU, KODI-BEAR.

FISHERMENS TERM

PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD?
GRANTED!

I would not have been able to complete this book without the generous outpouring of time, patience, and positive energy from those around me. For that endless support I want to say a special thank you to Johanna, Oliver, and Vivi Cullum.

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JARED CULLUM was born in 1985 in Johnson City, TN. He is a cartoonist, writer, and painter with a deep passion for connecting with people through visual storytelling. Between developing stories, he teaches traditional painting and anatomy and spends his days exploring the lessons of 19th-century painting for creators today. He has also written and painted stories for Boom/Archaia and Jim Henson Productions, working on such titles as *Planet of the Apes*, *Labyrinth*, *Fraggle Rock*, and *Storyteller*. He lives in Pittsburgh, PA.

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"Jared Cullum brings to *Kodi* a fresh watercolor style that's brimming over with personality. His characters come alive in their world, and they'll convert a casual reader into a devoted fan."

— **James Gurney,**
creator of *Dinotopia*

"Cullum's story has the heart and cartoony realism of a Pixar film... A sweet tale of friendship for those just learning how to make friends."

— ***Booklist***

"*Kodi* is the perfect combination of an exciting adventure and a heartwarming tale of friendship. Jared's exquisitely painted pages bring his characters to life and invite you to get lost in the gentle embrace of this wonderful story. Even though Kodi doesn't say a word, Jared uses every brush stroke to delicately communicate his very real emotions. I absolutely love *Kodi* and you will too!"

— **Andy Runton,**
creator of *Owly*

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